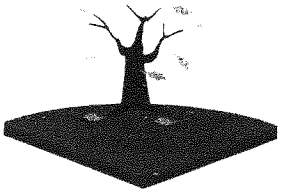
Vibrations



Fall 2000
Volume 24, No. 3

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Eastern District, Ontario Professional Planners Institute

Région de l'Est de l'Institut des Planificateurs de l'Ontario

Ramblings from Ron

August 22, 2000

The year 2000 is going to be a watershed year for OPPI. The organization has embarked on the implementation of the new OPPI Strategic Plan, and we have already made strides. As an example, OPPI developed a position paper on the Oak Ridges Moraine, a topic of ongoing debate in the GTA. In an effort to gain exposure and build on our public image, this paper was released to the media and garnered surprising coverage in the Globe and Mail. In the midst of this foray into the limelight (unknown territory for OPPI), the organization hired Loretta Ryan, MCIP, RPP, as Manager, Policy and Communications.

A key aspect of the Strategic Plan involves providing value-added services to members. One such service which is being pursued is the professional liability insurance program. Having such insurance elevates our profession to a new level. It also brings a responsibility to the organization and individuals to maintain high standards of professional practice. You should have received an information package this past spring. Contact the OPPI office if you require the details.

The OPPI web page is also scheduled to have a complete overhaul. The objective will be to create a tool which planners can make better use of in their day to day business. There is a demand for research and academic links, municipal information sharing, job advertisements, product marketing, invoicing capabilities, and other features to be provided on-line.

These proposed services come at a cost, however, and our profession will be asked to confirm that it is ready to move to the next level. Members should watch for a mail-out ballot which will be administered prior to the OPPI Annual General Meeting in mid-October. The ballot will confirm (or not) that members are prepared to pay an additional $60 in annual membership fees to receive the value-added services. The professional liability insurance program alone accounts for two-thirds of this amount.

An information meeting on the insurance program is being organized in Ottawa on September 20, in place of the event cancelled last spring due to lack of interest. I encourage you to attend the event and to take the time to complete and return the mail-out ballot.

I hope to see many of you at the Annual OPPI Conference in Niagara Falls October 15 to 18. If not, I look forward to connecting with you at the District's Fall Dinner and AGM on October 26.

Cheers!
Ronald A. Clarke, MCIP, RPP
Chair, OPPI Eastern District

Vibrations

Vibrations is a quarterly publication of the Eastern Ontario District (EOD) of the Ontario Professional Planners Institute (OPPI), and is distributed free to all EOD members. Suscriptions are available at $10 per year (4 issues) for non-members.

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Winter 2000	15 November 2000
Spring 2001	15 February 2001

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UPCOMING EVENTS - *IMPORTANT DATES*

Wednesday, September 20

Information Session on Proposed Membership Fee Increases and New Services

in the Region of Ottawa-Carleton Planning Department,
Boardroom A
111 Lisgar Street, Ottawa
5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Eastern District Fall Dinner and Social

at the
Marble Works Restaurant
14 Waller Street, Ottawa
(near Rideau Street)

beginning at 5:30 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS:

Full Members

Steve Cunliffe, City of Cumberland
Michael Fowlie, Region of Ottawa-Carleton
Robert Tennant, FoTenn Consultants Inc.
John Towndrow, Parks Canada

Provisional Members

Carrie Lee Chung, CIDA
Claire Millington, CIDA
Zahra Popatai, Phillippine Dev. Assistance Program
Robin Smith, Town of Arnprior
Stephen Stirling, Novatech Engineering Consultants

CALLING ALL MEMBERS

Your District Executive consists of seven members. The Chair is the District representative on O.P.P.I. Council. As you know Ron Clarke assumed the District Rep. position from Dennis Jacobs late last year for the 2000 / 2001 term. Now the terms of the other six members of the District Executive have expired and it is time for nominations to be accepted for the 2001/2002 Executive. Positions include:

- Vice-Chair who also serves as Chair of the Membership Committee
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Director at Large: Program Events
- Director at Large: Nominations and Awards
- Publications Representative

Only two members of the existing Executive are potentially available for continued service so **YOUR** participation is required.

A **"Call for Nominations"** notice was recently sent to all members along with a nomination form. You may also give Cathy Kaufman (748-4261), Don Maciver (692-3571 x 105) or Ron Clarke (738-4160) a call for more information. Job descriptions are available on request.

Update on Planning and Ottawa's Transition Board

by Barb McMullen, Publications Representative

January 2, 2001—the "Opening Day" of the amalgamation of eleven Ottawa-Carleton area municipalities into the new City of Ottawa—is approaching rapidly. Early in the summer, Ottawa's Transition Board announced the appointment of Ned Lathrop as the General Manager of the City's new Development Services Department. Lathrop, who served as Cumberland's Chief Administrative Officer from 1989 until taking on the new City of Ottawa position this summer, also previously held positions as Cumberland's Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, and its Director of Planning.

On August 10, 2000, the Transition Board adopted in principle a high level service delivery model for the Development Services Department (DSD), which had been set out in a July report submitted by Project Planning Leader Barry Edgington on behalf of the Development Services Restructuring Core Team. The Transition Board also requested, at its August 10th meeting, further refinement and review of the DSD high level service delivery model to achieve maximum savings while maintaining levels of service, with specific direction to:

- find additional Full Time Equivalent cost savings from those set out in the July report;
- rename the proposed Planning and Infrastructure Policy Branch to Planning, Environment and Infrastructure Policy Branch;
- within the latter branch, examine the possibilities of consolidating certain units and better define the Branch's roles to achieve further cost reductions;
- identify specific means to streamline the development approval process, maximizing the use of innovative methods;
- outline a process to deal with rural/economic planning and development issues and define a process to protect the use of greenbelt and agricultural land;
- recognize there is an urgency in developing a new Official Plan and Zoning By-law for the new City and explore ways to expedite the process; and
- examine adherence times for staff's processing of development approval and building permit applications.

As adopted August 10th, the Development Services Department will be organized into three main branches: Planning and Infrastructure Approvals; Planning, Environment and Infrastructure Policy; and Building Services; along with two proposed separate units, Strategic Support and Business Development. On August 14th the Transition Board also approved a management structure for the new City that created four Director positions for the Development Services Department: one for each of the three named main branches, along with a Director of Business Development.

The July recommendations for the DSD delivery model were based on a number of objectives, including creating a "one stop/cradle to grave" business client level of service, streamlining development approvals/permits and a guaranteed reduction of delivery timeframes, establishing a proposed 12 to 18 month timetable to achieve only one Official Plan and Zoning By-law, along with options to simplify the format and scope of the Official Plan, exploring ways to establish and implement urban design objectives, and continuing to protect heritage buildings.

The July report also recommended that the DSD have in place by January, 2001 a number of "deliverables", including a Delegation of Approval Authority by-law, standard application and building permit forms, standard legal agreements and approved conditions, a consolidated set of key policy documents for reference prior to the adoption of a new policy framework, and other deliverables. A single Committee of Adjustment was recommended, with several functional panels that would operate on a geographic basis. A single LACAC was also proposed, to be supported by several geographically based community panels. Both the LACAC and C of A functions were to be supported by professional staff presence.

The recommended staff model was based on a Central/Satellite Combination, with a one-stop Client Service Centre (CSC) providing a full range of functions located at City Hall (existing RMOC offices), with professional and technical staff mainly based in the central office. The CSC would deal with more complex planning and development applications, while a number of storefront Community Service Centres in the West, South, and East urban centres and rural communities would deal with minor applications, staffed by a limited number of development

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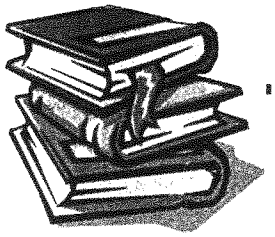
related professional and technical staff. The use of a variety of technology initiatives was also recommended (such as "smart" applications, teleconferencing and "palm pilots", i.e. hand held computers) to create efficiencies, and, as appropriate, the use of out-sourcing through partnerships, contracting out and privatization.

The recommended organizational structure described in the July report, which is to be further refined to achieve additional savings, proposed staff reductions of 80 FTE reductions in year one of amalgamation, 35 FTE additional reductions by year three, for a total at the end of year three of 115 FTE reductions and a savings of $8 million.

All project teams are to report back to the Transition Board in September with specifics on their respective service delivery teams, leading to the creation of municipal departments and the hiring of staff in the fall. Full details of the July DSD recommended high service delivery model, the Board's August 10th amendments, and continuing updates on the status of the Ottawa Transition Board activities can be found at: *http://www.ottawatransition.on.ca/*



Graduate Student Research Grant

At the District's last AGM information was made available concerning the use of funds accumulated in the East for several years and intended for a student scholarship fund. Since this time a small Committee of the membership has met and discussed options. The District Executive also discussed the best approach.

At the District's monthly meeting on August 3, a resolution was passed to approve a Graduate Student Research Grant, as opposed to a scholarship. The Research Grant was decided upon for a variety of reasons including a desire to make it unique from other available programs and also to increase the profile of O.P.P.I in both the East and with student members. The grant is to be targeted at students in the graduate planning program at Queen's University in Kingston. It is proposed this year to have a closing date of November 30, 2000 for submissions with the award announcement on or about January 30, 2001.

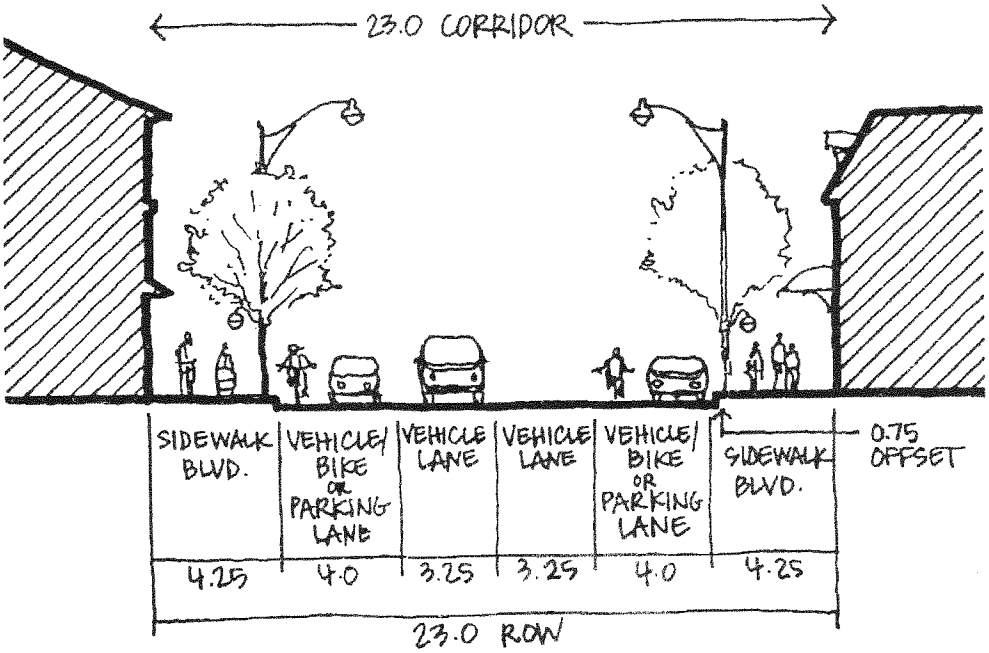
I think you will all agree that this Award will be an important component in maintaining a solid relationship with the only accredited planning school in Eastern Ontario and in fostering a connection among current practitioners, OPPI itself and with our profession's future.

The necessary work is not yet over however. Decisions have still to be made on where to place existing funds for the program so that some sustainable (but safe!) growth can be realized. It will also be necessary for some innovative ideas to be developed to ensure "top up" of the fund to balance annual payouts and possibly to increase the value of award. The latter is particularly important in light of steadily increasing tuition and other costs for students and to ensure that the best and the brightest are given every available opportunity to excel. This will be a task for the 2001 / 2002 Executive

Regional Road Corridor Design Guidelines

by Robin Bennett, Environment and Transportation Department, Region of Ottawa-Carleton

The summer of 2000 marked the endorsement by the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Council of an innovative tool for use by planners and road designers entitled *Regional Road Corridor Design Guidelines*. The impetus for the two year study project culminating in this document arose from policy directives in the 1997 Regional Official Plan which called for recognition of the broader functions of Regional road corridors. Traditionally, the arterial function of such corridors is to move people and goods efficiently and safely to their destinations. Past and current road design guidelines reflected this, with their emphasis on traffic volume and movements. What was missing in road design guidelines and development standards was recognition of the function of road corridors as public spaces where people live, work and play as well as provision for other transportation modes such as walking, cycling and transit. To paraphrase the document itself "Road designers and planners must consider the role of the entire road corridor as a public space, and the role of roads in shaping the character, function and livability of adjacent land uses and communities." The study participants included a working group of key stakeholders and professionals, and the report was prepared by Delcan Corporation in association with the Planning Partnership.



The original concept called for a document which would be rich in illustrations and diagrams to make it more user friendly. It certainly needed a lot of diagrams considering the number of road elements and variety of road typologies that needed to be considered. To name some of the elements: landscaping, sidewalks, lighting, building facades and orientations, boulevards, snow storage and clearance, medians, vegetative cover, utilities, lane widths, noise attenuation, intersections, bike facilities, transit stops, site plan design, height to corridor width ratios, commercial signage, street furniture, bicycle and motorised vehicle parking. A big challenge in preparing the guidelines was in addressing the full range of conditions, given that Regional roads occur in all combinations of land use contexts: rural, urban, core areas, commercial office, commercial retail and residential. A representative number of road typologies were selected as case studies, and these were analysed as to their strengths and weaknesses as functions of public space, and subjected to a comprehensive criteria list. This analysis identified a set of "best practices" which in turn were used to help establish the design guidelines.

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Many road corridor elements are shown in this diagram, which is a section of a sample Urban Main Street from the document.

The document is divided into four major chapters: 1) first principles; 2) design guidelines; 3) demonstration plans and sections for various road corridor types and 4) implementation tools. The design guidelines were developed for various individual road corridor components. These include elements located on adjacent lands, the road edge, and the roadway, as well as intersections, driveways, pedestrian crossings and linear services. These components can then be assembled to form complete road cross-sections and plans. The process involves mixing and matching those component designs that best achieve the desired road character and corridor width. Demonstration plans are illustrated for six basic road types, but other corridor designs are possible. The study provides an implementation framework that can be used to set the guidelines into practice.

The end result of this project? An innovative and integrated reference which allows road designers and planners a more complete and broad perspective of the full range of issues surrounding road corridor design. This is a well-illustrated document which at a glance can provide standards, range of dimensions and a unique planners' viewpoint on road corridor design.

Regional Road Corridor Design Guidelines *is available electronically on the RMOC web page www.rmoc.on.ca or in a hard copy for $10.00 by contacting the RMOC Planning and Development Approvals Department (Phone: 613-560-2053 or Fax: 613-560-6006).*

Urban Forum Lecture Series 2000-2001 Season

by Allison Christie, OPPI Eastern District Representative, Urban Forum Steering Committee

The Urban Forum lecture series is preparing for another exciting season of thought-provoking evening events to explore urban issues.

As last year's Artist's Perspective on the City drew such a wonderful turnout and so many diverse ideas about how individuals and artists see the city, we will revisit this topic again in the fall. The fall will also feature a lecture on the Soundscape of the Urban Environment.

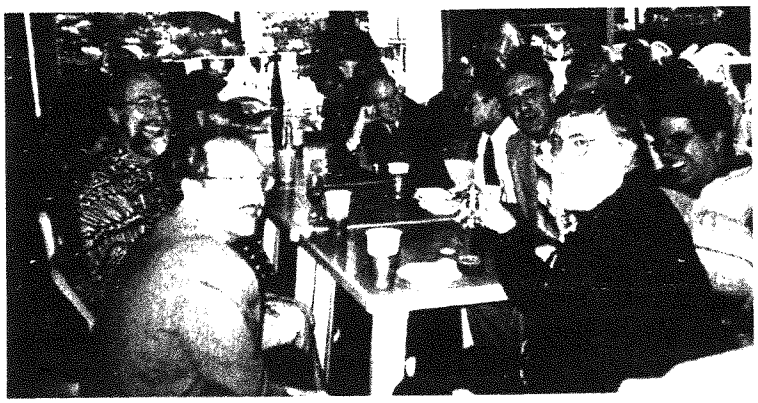
As the issue of municipal governance continues to heat up, a panel discussion on how things might unfold will be held in November. To date, John Sewell, a former Toronto mayor and urban affairs activist, has confirmed that he will participate.

2001 topics will include transportation safety, to be held in conjunction with meetings of the Transportation Association of Canada, and climate change. More information will be provided later this fall as we confirm speakers for the events.

On an administrative note, the Urban Forum Steering Committee has a new chair. The steering committee would like to thank Sylvie Grenier for all her hard work to make Urban Forum a success! We are pleased to announce that Mary Jarvis will be the chair for 2000-01.

The steering committee welcomes your comments and ideas for new lectures.
Please contact me at 995-3434 or by e-mail at achristi@nrcan.gc.ca.

Memories of the June Summer



Above: Robert Walters, David Sherwood, Nigel Brereton, David Miller and Joseph Phelan

Below: Carol Christensen, Larry Spencer and Jim Kearns

Above: Judy Flavin, Pierre Malo and Alice Fyfe

Below: Marc Sarrazin and David Gordon (at back centre) with student members

Right: Ted Fobert, Nancy Smith, Jeffrey Thiessen and David Becker